

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Independence Custom Fabricators Incorporated

#### Missouri Enterprise

#### Missouri Enterprise Helps ICF Industries Realize Continuous Improvement

**Client Profile:**

ICF Industries, founded in 1981, offers a wide range of custom metal fabrication and assembly services to major manufacturers in the automobile, aerospace, lawn and garden and electronics industries. ICF, formerly Independence Custom Fabricators, employs 85 people at its facility in Pleasant Hill, Missouri.

**Situation:**

ICF management recognized that its sustained growth made a larger and more effectively designed facility mandatory. After moving to a larger facility, the company engaged Missouri Enterprise, a NIST MEP network affiliate, to assist with implementation of a Lean Enterprise program of continuous improvement.

**Solution:**

Missouri Enterprise began the project with a company-wide introduction to Lean Enterprise principles, followed by development of current and future state Value Stream Maps to identify opportunities for improvement. Subsequently, Missouri Enterprise manufacturing specialists helped the company conduct a series of Kaizen events. As a result of Missouri Enterprise's assistance, the new facility thoroughly integrates 6S (Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize, Sustain, Safety) workplace organization which has helped to create an organized, clean and effective workplace and improve safety, quality and efficiency. In addition, the design of the new facility has greatly improved communication between departments and enhanced the flow of orders through the plant.

**Results:**

Estimated:

- \* Retained sales of \$2.5 million.
- \* Cost savings of \$1.5 million.
- \* Created/retained 10 jobs.

**Testimonial:**

"Missouri Enterprise is a great resource for companies like ours. They acted as an extension of our team, and their work exceeded our expectations."

Robert Krug, President